

FIG. 1  
PRIOR ART

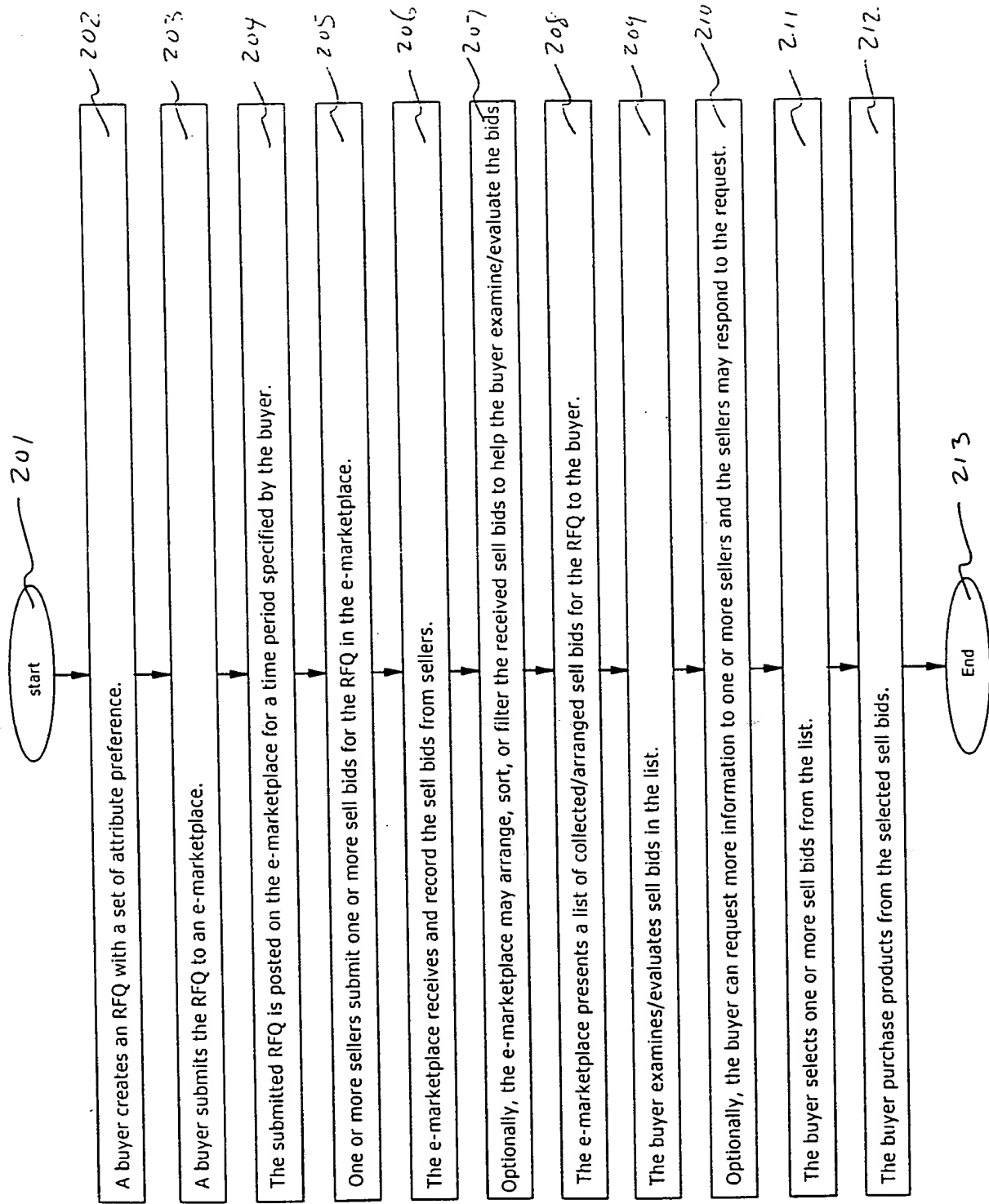


FIG. 2  
PRIOR ART

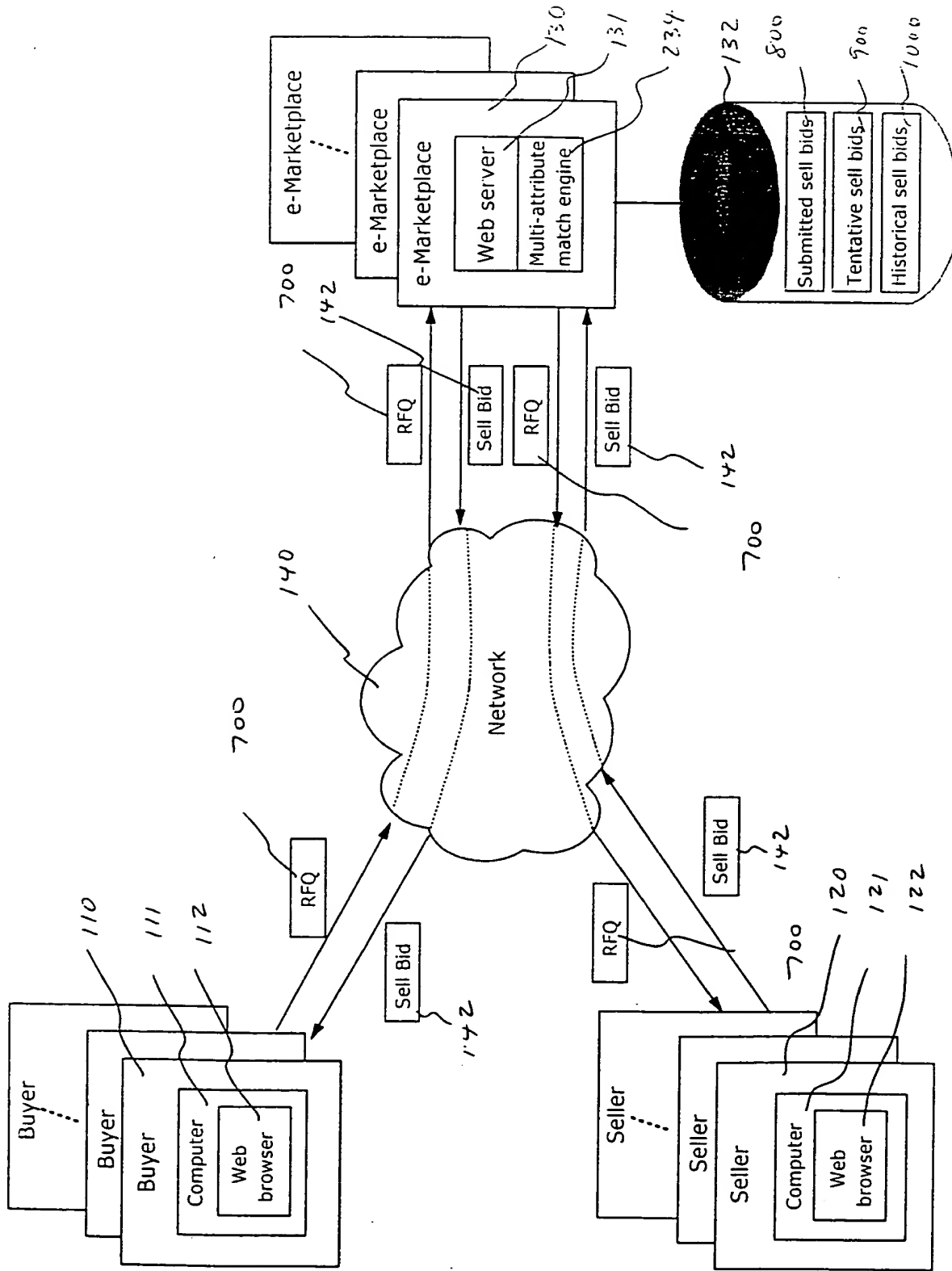


FIG.3

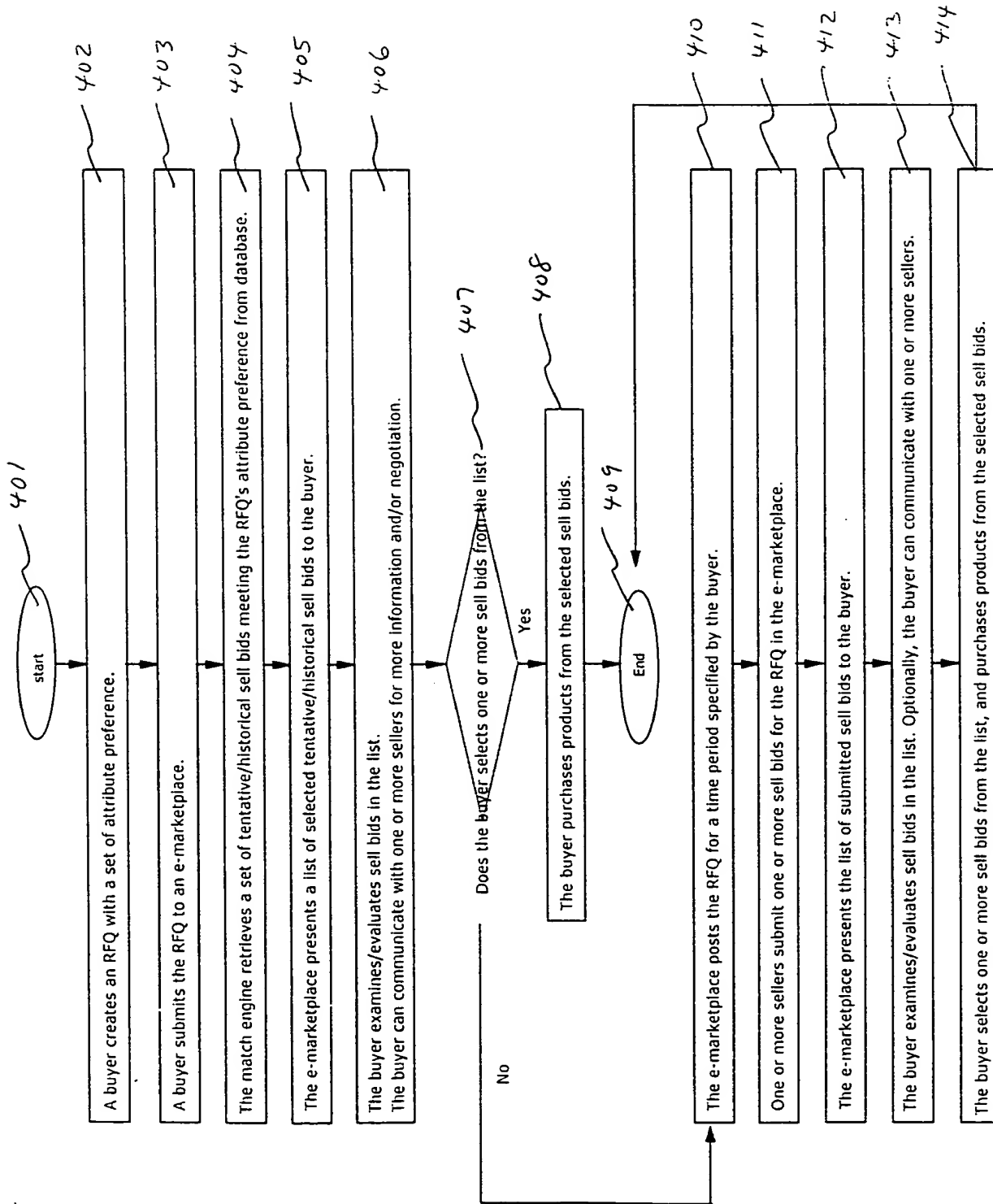


FIG. 4

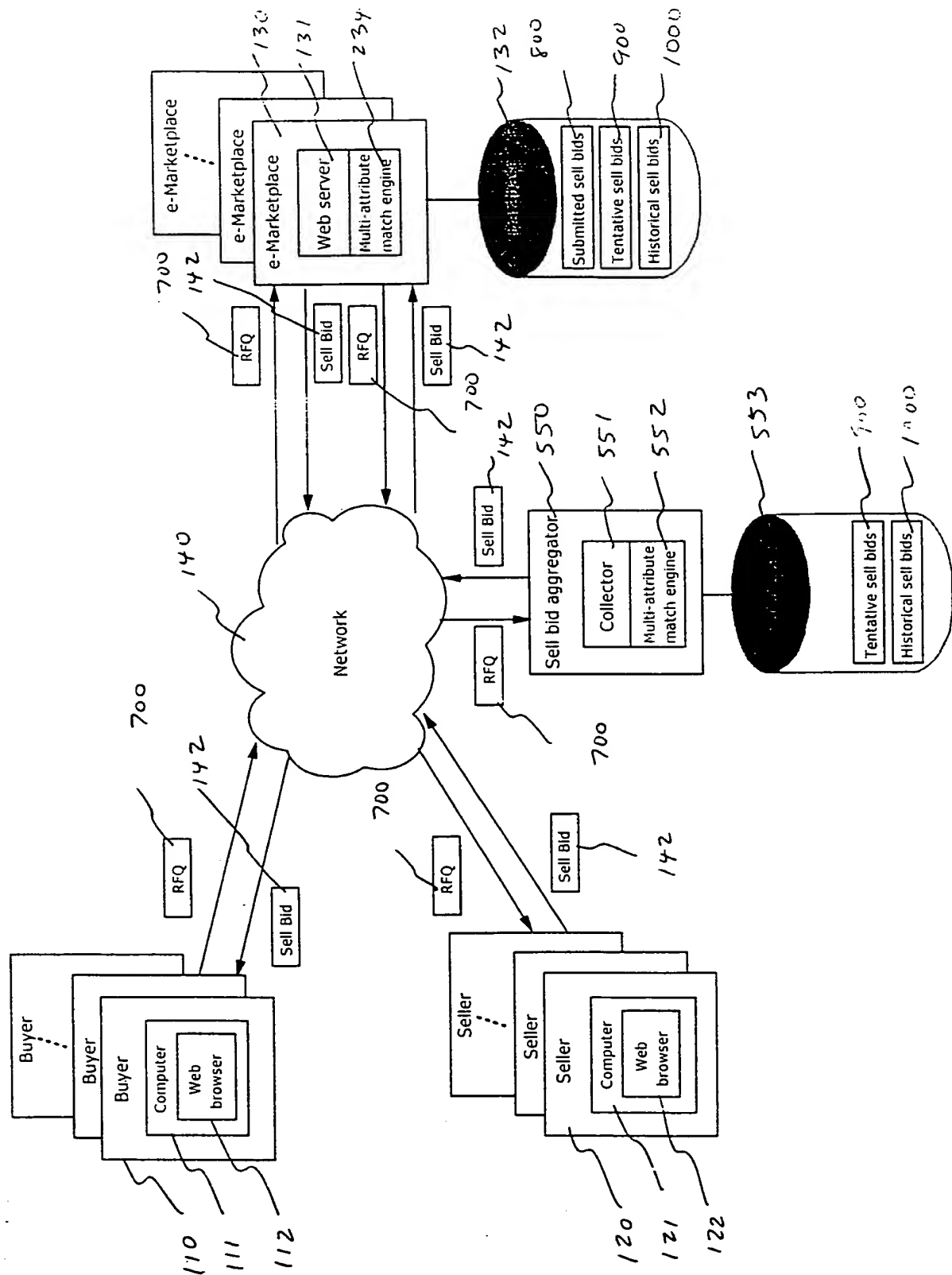


FIG. 5

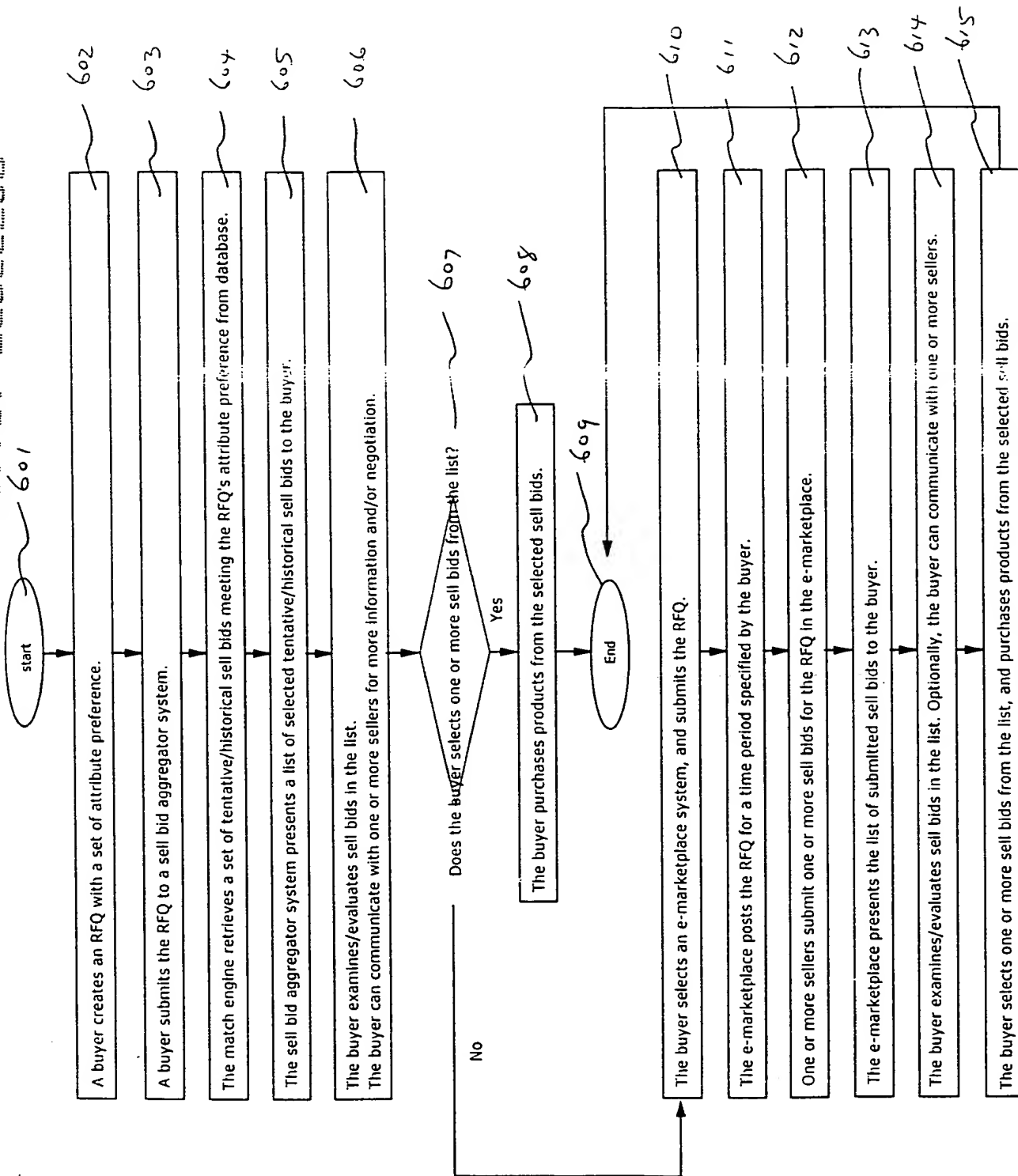


FIG. 6

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| 701 | RFQ number: 1097   |
| 702 | Buyer identifier: 3216B7321  |
| 703 | Product information (Product identifier: 318J749) — 703I   |
| 704 | Product category: Engineering plastics   |
| 705 | Product name: Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)   |
| 706 | Product attribute<br>Acid resistant: 6-8 PH, non-negotiable<br>Biodegradability: 1-10 years, negotiable<br>Softening point: 300-350 degrees Kelvin, informational<br>Flame resistant: Yes, informational<br>.... |
| 707 | Closing time<br>Seller response by 12 October, 2000 at 12:00:00 AM<br>Decision made by 15 October, 2000 at 12:00:00 PM   |
| 708 | Bidding rules<br>minimum reserve price: N/A<br>maximum reserve price: \$300 (per unit)<br>Bid replacement (Is price improvement required on seller's previous bid?): Yes   |
| 709 | Clearing rules<br>Tie breaking: priority on the largest bid, and then the earliest bid   |
| 710 | Business rules<br>Market participants (Who is allowed to participate?): screened<br>Discount rule (for volume purchase): 10%   |

FIG. 7

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 801  | Bid number: 458242  |
| 801R | RFQ number: 318   |
| 802  | Bid Type: Submitted sell bid  |
| 803  | Seller identifier: 998532   |
| 804  | Marketplace identifier: 11  |
| 805  | Product information (Product identifier: 943H871) — 805 I   |
| 806  | Product category: Engineering plastics  |
| 807  | Product name: Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)  |
| 808  | Product attribute<br>Acid resistant: 8 PH<br>Biodegradability: 7 years<br>Softening point: 315 degrees Kelvin<br>Flame resistant: Yes<br>.... |
| 809  | Bid attributes<br>Price: \$206.00 per unit<br>Quantity: 100 units<br>Delivery: Express delivery available                                     |
| 810  | Submission time<br>Seller response at 2:53:32 PM on 11 October, 2000  |

FIG. 8



|      |  |
|------|--|
| 801A | Bid number: 74832  |
| 802A | Bid Type: Tentative sell bid   |
| 803A | Seller identifier: 25372   |
| 804A | Marketplace identifier: 11   |
| 805A | Product information (Product identifier: 831K71) 805 I   |
| 806A | Product category: Engineering plastics   |
| 807A | Product name: Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)   |
| 808A | Product attribute<br>Acid resistant: 7 PH<br>Biodegradability: 9 years<br>Softening point: 327 degrees Kelvin<br>Flame resistant: No<br>.... |
| 809A | Bid attributes<br>Price: \$275.00 per unit<br>Quantity: 20 units<br>Delivery: Express delivery available                                     |
| 910  | Valid time<br>until 12:00:00 AM on 1 November, 2000  |

FIG. 9

